

23 September 2005

To : All Authorized Persons  
Registered Structural Engineers  
Registered Geotechnical Engineers  
Registered General Building Contractors and  
Registered Specialist Contractors

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Appointment of Registered Geotechnical Engineers  
with effect from 31 December 2005**

Pursuant to the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2004, the requirement to appoint a registered geotechnical engineer (RGE) for the geotechnical elements of building works or street works as stipulated in section 4(1)(c) of the Buildings Ordinance (BO) shall come into effect on 31 December 2005. From this date onwards, the responsibility of an authorized person (AP) or registered structural engineer (RSE) under the BO in respect of geotechnical elements of building works or street works shall be taken up by an RGE. In this connection, the division of responsibilities between AP, RSE and RGE is set out in the Practice Note for AP and RSE 294.

I am writing to remind you that with effect from 31 December 2005, the appointment of RGE is mandatory for all stages of building works or street works involving geotechnical elements. However, should there be special circumstances such as that the geotechnical works have been practically completed by 31 December 2005, application for exemption from the appointment of an RGE for such works under section 42 of the BO may be considered on a case by case basis.

Yours faithfully,



(Marco M H WU)  
Building Authority